

CE Regional Coordinators – Conference Call Minutes

– 1:30 p.m. ET

Call in 800-369-1652 passcode 97972

FPL		R2	Linda Hecker
IITF		R3	Karen Malis-Clark, Jean Szymanski
NA	Susan Cox	R4	Carol Ryan
NRS	Barbara MacGuinness	R5	Tim Williams
PNW & PSW	Becky Bittner	R6	
RMRS		R8	Sharon Waltrip
SRS	Claire Payne	R9	Clare Long
R1	Julie Molzahn	R10	Kristi Kantola
WO-Detached	Michelle Andrews Barbara McDonald	WO	Vicki, Harald, Tamberly, Sue, Safiya

Director's Overview

ROUND ROBIN

Northeastern Area – Susan Cox is working with a teacher to make a template for watershed spatial data lesson plan. It will be put on the NA site if it works. Two teachers were hired to work on experimental forests this summer.

NRS: Barbara McGuinness: Joanne Rebbeck and Kathleen Knight (Delaware OH) received a grant from Ohio State University to expand their Emerald Ash Borer citizen science program so it can be replicated in other areas. Scientists in Columbia, MO have worked with a local school to design and build a nature-based playground (based on the Arbor Day Foundation model). This school also has an excellent mentoring program. Is the FS looking for opportunities to link what we do to the “Let’s Move” program?

Southern Research Station – Claire Payne: The Pineville, LA unit sponsored a wetland immersion night featuring insects, crustaceans, and a salamander-type creature called a siren. Teachers were very surprised by how many people and parents came out. The same unit also welcomed about 300 people at a Bug Day event that included a station for pet bugs. At HQ they will take out summer camp groups in July and August to point out invasive plants while hiking in an urban forest. There is a big Mountain State Fair in the fall that they will take part in. The Station is developing a Pollinator Habitat that will be a People’s Garden site.

PNW RS-Becky Bittner: Yesterday was the 30th anniversary of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. 3000 children participated in the Volcano Explorers webcast. It will be available online because it was too late for Eastern Schools.

Region 2 – Linda Hecker: Get Outdoors Day will have a big junior ranger day event in Denver. Last year 5000 attended and they handed out 750 passports. They hope to have more this year. Lots of partners will have different stations such as water quality testing and “poop-igator” and campfire building and extinguishing. Head Start members will be involved and modifying what is going on to accommodate the little kids. At the end of the trail kids will produce a piece of artwork on a tile that will be combined to put in the state capitol. It will also be the launch of the new PSA so Shrek will be with Smokey and Woodsy. They developed a Junior Ranger badge and a certificate. The certificate was signed by the lieutenant governor of Colorado.

She has been working with CAEE and PLT to do an environmental film festival.

WO – Detached – Michelle will send out EUGENE news in an email. Babs: the Student Scientist edition of NI is available on the website. It was done by high school students in Michigan. The Ecosystem Services edition went to the presses. A Climate Change Investigator is being made with the PNW RS.

Region 9 – Clare Long I am working with two 3rd grade classes in a local elementary school following the PLT Environmental Exchange Box activity. One class is exchanging with a school in Kentucky and the other a school in AK. Pen-pals, videos, food, photos, and information about the natural and cultural history of these areas are exchanged. We modified the list from the PLT to make it more inclusive and easier for the teachers to do with minimal supervision. Huge success! I received an outstanding educator award from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the National Park Service for my work in training teachers how to use the outdoors as a classroom in the Trail to Every Classroom and Forest for Every Classroom programs. Joel Holtrop, FS Deputy Chief, presented the award at the Library of Congress event. A local elementary school PE teacher and I developed an integrated Orienteering and Mapping Skills unit designed to enhance kids outside time during PE class. This unit integrates science, social studies, math and PE together. We duplicated this in another school this year as well. We presented this at a State conference with great results and recently presented it to the County school superintendent where it was well received. The schools will schedule teacher training time for awareness and voluntary implementation of this unit. The 2010 Junior Ranger Book is almost ready to go to print. I sent out the 2009 version to everyone on the wo ce pdl. This is a supplement to the national FS Jr Ranger program and helps connect the visitor to place. They printed 1,100 and got 500 returned.

Region 3 – Karen Malis-Clark: PLT in Arizona has been orphaned but will be adopted by Northern Arizona U. School of Forestry in Flagstaff. Jean Sz. Has a 53 person forestry camp coming this summer, including a group from New Mexico State University science camp. Carol Little in the recreation staff is organizing Get Outdoors Day.

Region 5 – Tim Williams is at the PLT meeting in South Lake Tahoe. R5 will be doing the Get to Know program again – 2nd year pilot program art contest. They will do the Kids for Trees program for the second year. Also Natural Inquirer with the local Vallejo Unified School District – very successful. As part of the People's garden initiative – an urban tree house and a fire tower lookout are being planned as "people's gardens." It will be a great viewing point and a fire education center. Julie has an historic restoration crew that can provide the plans and supply list to build the tower.

Region 1 – Julie: Steve Kratville has been working with FFEC on the Helena. PLT facilitation module in Bozeman. Lots of Get Outdoors Day stuff coming up.

Region 8 – Sharon Waltrip: Where do we stand with No Child Left Inside? Was the bill passed? No, not yet. It is "making progress" but we cannot advocate.

I think it requires states to have environmental literacy plans. so there's a role for FS to play in those plans. The Daniel Boone NF hosted a training day in March for the Cannon Envirothon. 60 students and coaches from 7 countries participated with 80 on the waiting list! Resource professionals staffed stations through which they rotated. They also had events for Arbor Day, EarthDay and Wildflower Weekend with plans for upcoming Fishing Derby, Living Archaeology Weekend and Wildland Firefighter Exhibition and weekly campfire programs planned into September.

Land Between The Lakes had a successful series of Kids Spring Break programs, Junior Explorer Day, Earth Day/Wildflower Week end Celebration and Migration Celebration. Memorial Day week-end will see programs based around River Days theme and River Sounds (Old-time Music) with Children's Day still to come in early June.

Sharon attended the Governor's Summit on Every Child Outdoors (Tennessee) last week with coalition partners from Scouts, YMCA, Transportation, Health Department, National Wildlife Federation and more. Break out work sessions developed action items to meet their goals. It was neat to see a broader set of participants in this effort.

Region 4 – Carol Ryan: Last month we did an interpretive and CE workshop. Steve Kratville came down and did a talk on Forest For Every Classroom. Organizing Get Outdoors Day projects

Region 10 – Alaska Region, Kristi Kantola

Mystery solved. The Jr Ranger program I referred to is the "Alaska Adventure Ranger" program initiated by the Park Service, and encouraging children to visit all of Alaska's public lands. The Forest Service will be participating with a number of agencies and organizations in BioBlitz, from noon, June 26 to noon, June 27 in Juneau. BioBlitz is a celebration of biodiversity. There will be a dozen or so scientists leading taxon teams of citizens of all ages to inventory a number of life forms in a specified area. We will also have 30-45 min interpretive/educational programs and booths, a barbecue and entertainment - "Music in Celebration of Biodiversity." A team continues to work on the Regional educational website. The Chugach National Forest is preparing to conduct its first "Trail to Every Classroom" teacher training in August. The Cordova Ranger District staff once again participated in and took some leadership roles in the Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival. The Tongass National Forest recently helped organize and participated in two community festivals - the Stikine Migratory Birding Festival in Wrangell and the Hummingbird Festival in Ketchikan. The Employees on both Forests are preparing for culture camps this summer.

Washington Office – Safiya: PLT has been a very successful conference. Generation Green: Students from the Lake Tahoe basin have been sharing what they have been doing for restoration after a fire. PLT recognized 5 educators – Susan Cox one of them. Congratulations Susan. Putting together a program of work for the Year of the Forest. Cindy MacArthur is the coordinator.

The Discover the Forest Shrek PSAs are ready – they will roll out on June 10th. The FS invested \$1 million in this campaign, but have got \$17 million in donated media and work from big companies like Dreamworks and HP. PMH (similar to Scholastic) are developing a web-based curriculum on forests. It will be on iphones and elsewhere, but will move kids to the outdoors.

CE conference – thank you to the team that has put together the plan. Unfortunately the process for getting approval changed. Iris had to reformat the package. It will hopefully be at the end of October or sometime in November or early December.

Vicki: We've got our hands in a lot of things. Today we were a sponsor and host of the EnviroMentors Program science fair.